



Safari Trails

A News Magazine for Members of Safari International

Winter 2025

Celebrating 37 years of the Spirit of Safari



Blue Springs, Missouri
Linda Jackson 1995 Serengeti

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JANUARY 2026

January 08 - 11, 2026

Family RV Association
Western Area Rally
Indio, California

See the FRVA website for details,
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

January 12 - 15, 2026

Safari of Southern California
Twenty Nine Palms RV Resort
Twenty Nine Palms, California
Paul Findly
714.348.9735
findley@sbcglobal.net

January 15 - 21, 2026

No-Host Quartzsite Gathering
Dry Camping at its' Finest!
BLM Lands adjacent to Quartzsite,
Arizona
Watch for details in the Trails as
we get closer to the date!

MARCH 2026

March 18 - 21, 2026

Family RV Association
112th International Convention
Perry, Georgia
See the FRVA website for details,
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

APRIL 2026

April 09 - 12, 2026

Safari of Southern California
jointly with California Chapter of
FRVA
Golden Village Palms RV Resort
Hemet, California
Sandie Bee
beeronfun@gmail.com

April 27 - May 01, 2026

Safari International
Spring Rally
Branson, Missouri
Watch for details in the Trails as we
get closer to the date!

April 28 - 30, 2026

NorthWest Trek Fun Club
No Frills Hoodsport Rally
Rest-a-While RV Park
Hoodsport, Washington
Kathleen & Wojo Walczak
mcnamka@gmail.com
Nancy & Dick Harris

MAY 2026

May 13 - 17, 2026

Family RV Association
International Area Rally
Sevierville, Tennessee
See the FRVA website for details,
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

JUNE 2026

June 10 - 13, 2026

Family RV Association
Great Lakes Area Rally
Allegan, Michigan
See the FRVA website for details,
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

June 12 - 16, 2026

NorthWest Trek Fun Club
Siuslaw Pre-Rally
Woahink Lake RV Resort
Oregon
Al & Elaine Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com
Duane & Kathy Klophenstein

June 17 - 20, 2026

Family RV Association
North West Area Rally
North Bend, Oregon
See the FRVA website for details,
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

JULY 2026

July 01 - 04, 2026

Family RV Association
113th International Convention
Sedalia, Missouri
See the FRVA website for details,
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

President's Message



Ron Sloan

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Welcome to the Winter edition of the Safari Trails Newsletter,

With Thanksgiving behind us, for some it will mean heading for warmer climates to avoid the snow and the cold. For other it may be preparing to head south after the Christmas and the New Year. Our plan is to leave for Arizona in early January. Winter driving requires extra planning as one must deal with snow and passes that can be a problem. The original owner ordered the coach with a set of chains. It is obvious that they were never used as they are still in a fancy sewn sack. I carry them throughout the winter months but I have no intention on putting them on. My suggestion, is if you run into heavy snow, find a spot to park and chill out until the roads are clean and free of ice or snow. Safety first at all times when traveling.

Secondly, be sure to check over the rig and ensure it is serviced and safe to drive and will make it to your next destination. As most of our coaches from 2008 and older, some parts age out and are not given the attention they deserve. One of the units is the radiator expansion tank. Our previous unit was a 2008 with over 100,000 miles and the expansion split 150 miles from home late in the evening. We found a safe space to park and using a butter knife heated over the propane cook top, I was able to seal the crack, refill the tank and motor on through the mountains home. We had the opportunity to purchase a 1997 Safari Sahara with less than 20, 000 miles and garage kept. We purchased the 1997 unit and parted with the 2008. I realize it is now winter months but these tanks can age out and under pressure crack in both winter and summer. If you are running a Cat engine there is a pretty good chance that your expansion tank is from a Ford F600 or F800 truck. If so, the part number is F6H28A080B. These tanks were made from poly can be purchased on line for less than \$100.00. There are several manufactures now making the metal replacement tanks and they sell for around \$400.00. Once again these tanks are overlooked until they fail and you have to torch one of your wife's butter knife. I would suggest that you replace the main hoses at the same time. I just replaced our tank and hoses.

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And for those traveling this winter, Happy Motoring and stay safe.

Ron J. Sloan

Note from the Executive Vice President



Debby (David) McPherson

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Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from Foley, Alabama. David and I were able leave Wisconsin behind and travel south this winter to catch some warmer weather and get out of the snow. At least I hope we will be out of the snow as last year Foley recieved a record 8 inches of snow. So far the snow has stayed north. We left just in time to miss a 14 inch snow fall at our home in Wisconsin. David and I are looking forward to hiking, biking and eating lots of fresh fish and seafood. I would like to personally thank Bob Anderson (aka Diesel Bob) for helping with a few problems we had with our 1996 Safari Sahara. Bob is a member of Safari International, National Director and author of Tech Talk. Bob helped with some electrical problems that took out the control modual in the electric stairs. THANK YOU Bob for getting her road worthy. We look forward to sunny days and no snow.

Debby McPherson Executive Vice President

National Director's Report



Bob Anderson

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Where has 2025 gone? Here we are already jumping into 2026. 2025 was a flash, New years in Gulf Shores Al. area with jaunts into Mississippi and Louisiana. Moving on to Wisconsin in May to attend Midwest FRVA Rally in Elkhorn Wi. Before heading to Colorado for forth of July with great people we met on our RV travels. Then on to Gillette for FRVA rally. Returning to Wi we stayed a couple days to explore Sioux Falls South Dakota. Hard to believe the travels we have made exploring this great country we live in. Our journey started in June of 2014 leaving Nashville Tn. For Alaska. 49 drivable states, a few Canadine providences, two weeks flying to Hawaii. Eleven years living in all fifty states. Now time to slow down and be just Wisconsin SNOWBIRDS. Gulf Coast six months Wisconsin six months. Looking forward to our pre rally in Perry Ga. and spring Safari rally in Branson. Always great times with our Safari family. You all stay safe in your travels and slow down to enjoy the RV life, it's great.

Your National Director, Bob Anderson.

From your Webmaster



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Your website, <https://FRVA-TheSafariChapter.com>, is a valuable resource for you! It has an up-to-date calendar of events listing every opportunity for you to plan your travel schedule around. It has a fully functional Forum feature which provides a means for you to reach out to the rest of our membership and exchange ideas and solutions for any issues which might be challenging you with your rig or travel plans. It has a convenient online renewal form with online payment capabilities to simplify that entire process for you. Each of those features is fully accessible without having to log into the Members Only area of the website....simply go online, point your browser to OUR website, use those features and go about the rest of your day without having to concern yourself with user name or login password requirements. A login would only be needed if you wanted to post on the Forums or go into the Members Only area where EVERY past issue of the Safari Trails is archived in PDF format for easy on screen review or print out to your printer for your reading pleasure at a time of your choosing later. Also maintained in that password protected area for your exclusive use is an archive of significant depth, containing technical and marketing documentation for nearly every model and year of Safari coach ever produced. The secure Members Only area is also where you will find a complete and printable copy of the current Chapter Bylaws and Standing Rules should you ever have a need to review those guiding documents which govern our Chapter.

In my earlier Webmaster articles over the course of the past three years, I'm sure you you've heard me mention the pending need to upgrade our underlying website software....that time is NOW HERE and that process is NEARLY COMPLETE. In brief review, our website was built upon state of the art software nearly fifteen years ago, professionally designed and produced at significant expense for our specific needs. I became your webmaster in January of 2020 and in that nearly six year long period have been able to install the required incremental updates to the internal workings of the website, manage the contractual obligations that go along with owning and operating said website, renew the software licenses and subscriptions and even manage the internal migration to a new hosting service without interrupting our access to those resources listed above. As technology ages and matures, standards and capabilities change and require changes to the software that responds to those new standards and capabilities. Our fifteen year old underlying software, upon which our website was constructed, no longer meets today's requirements. Using our original data and functions, I have built an offline developmental website that now runs on modern software which meets today's standards. The process has been technically challenging (often frustratingly so!), but the end result will yield a newly constructed website that will follow the same form and function that our previous website utilized while maintaining ALL of the features that we had incorporated into our original site. The look and feel will be changed somewhat, however, as the original template upon which our current site was built was unable to come forward into the new software framework...that template was the key element for the look and feel. My target date for going live with the new software is now mid-October. The stress testing and cross checking continues. Once complete, the new website will be uploaded to our hosting service and become the new online face of our Chapter.

Fair winds and following seas.....

Past Presidents Article



Lee Buckley

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Please use our website more!

The calendar of events alone is worth integrating into your planning tools for travel planning as it includes information on when and where events will be held over the remainder of this year...and into next year as well. This resource in conjunction with our Forums can provide the means to compare travel plans and opportunities to join other fellow Safari members with ease....no FaceBook required!

Please take a look at the recently refreshed Rallies page on our website. We have included every Family RV Association Area Rally as well as their International Conventions...these events all provide opportunities within easy range for many of our members where we can gather and participate and socialize together. With just a little prior planning and effort, we could even arrange to meet in advance at a suitable venue for either a formalized Pre-Rally or an informal overnight dry camp, then caravan into the FRVA event where we can be parked together. The Board has discussed how it would be possible to provide supplemental funding in support of such group efforts to encourage participation.

The new website software "shakedown" process and going live in ~~mid / early June now projecting mid-October~~ has been on hold due to health and travel reasons, however, the website remains fully functional for now just "as is" (so PLEASE use it more!)....

I made it North to Prosser WA for a NWTFC rally there during the Balloon Festival in late September, then South with family stops in California along the way to the mid-October Safari of Southern California rally in Temecula, followed immediately afterwards by a short stop in Tucson to visit fellow Trek owner friends before we both moved over to Ajo AZ to join a group of enthusiastic travelers going south into Mexico for 11 days on the beach in Punta Peñasco on the Sea of Cortez. Once that adventure completed in early November, it was back North to the Pacific North West for another handful of medical appointments starting on the 10th of November.

I would hope to see many of you at some of the events upcoming this year! And remember, Quartzsite is coming in January!

Fair winds and following seas.





Light 'em up!!!



Up, up and awaaaaay!



Paint and bodywork prep on the beach



Almost ready to shoot



Puerto Peñasco sunset with my travel companion, Antonio de Tijuana.

Memo To Membership



Judy Reel

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Crater Lake, Oregon Oct 2020

Happy Holidays Safarians!

This is a busy time of year for everyone! You will be receiving your annual membership renewal reminder email at the end December for all members who will expire on 12/31/2025. You can renew your membership online any time at the recently updated web link <https://FRVA-TheSafariChapter.com> using the MEMBERS -> MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION path. You can select the option for renewal in the pulldown in the form highlighted in green:

Membership Application

The online payment form has been returned to its' normal configuration and supports our transition to a calendar year renewal process. The issue with the ReCaptcha paywall stalling has been resolved (FINALLY!) and should no longer prevent using the online membership application....I will be reviewing this form for continued relevance with an eye to making it more intuitive and "user-friendly" going forward but in the meantime please note that any fields on the form MARKED WITH AN (*) will require an entry or the damned form will not work for you!

To pay online, please fill out the form displayed on this page -OR- click [HERE](#) for a fillable PDF application form that you can print and mail with your check (if you prefer).

Membership Application Form

Select your option. (*)

FRVA membership # F: (*)

Pilot's first and last name (*)

Copilot's first and last name (optional)

Street (*)

City (*)

Membership Options:

- 20 - New membership - 1 year, w/o name badge - 20.00 USD
- 40 - New membership - 2 years, w/name badge - 40.00 USD
- Renewal Options -
- 20 - 1 Year membership renewal - 20.00 USD
- 40 - 2 Year membership renewal - 40.00 USD
- 60 - 3 Year membership renewal - 60.00 USD
- 20 - Reinstatement of membership - 20.00 USD
- 20 - Safari Alumni (continuing now without a coach) - 20.00 USD

* Membership Requirements: Current FRVA member and owner of a qualifying recreational vehicle. Reinstatement of membership for previous member of Safari International, current FRVA member and owner of a qualifying recreational vehicle.

If you would rather mail me a check, you can print the form by clicking on the word [HERE](#) in white. The address on the form is the same as the one under my picture above. Please use this opportunity to update any names, mailing addresses, cell / land lines, emails, or the current rig you are using.

Our Safari International Chapter currently has 106 members including 11 Alumni. We have some upcoming rally opportunities in 2026 so I hope you will renew your membership and join us at one of these events. Our chapter renewal paperwork will be submitted in FRVA this month. Fortunately, our currently slate of officers are willing to serve another term. (If you have any interest in serving as an officer in this club please talk with one of the officers.)

Be safe and be well this holiday season,